

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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R 190800Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9162
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FI, US, XZ

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO INVITATIONS TO EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS

REF: (A) STATE 169526 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 210299 (NOTAL)

1. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFED-
ERATION (SAK) TOLD LABATT SEPTEMBER 17 THAT SAK
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CHAIRMAN OIVIO HAD BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE INVITATION

TO OCTOBER 28 MEETING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OTHER WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS. AFTER DISCUSSING INVITATION WITH NORDIC COLLEAGUES, OIVIO REPLIED TO MEANY REGRETTING THE INVITATION. APART FROM REAL PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (E.G. AIRLINE ARRANGEMENTS AND SCHEDULE COMMITMENTS). SAK SPOKESMAN SAID MAJOR FACTOR INFLUENCING DECISION OF FINNS, AND OTHERS, WAS STRONG EUROPEAN OPPOSITION TO AFL-CIO STAND ON US PAYMENT OF ILO ASSESSMENT. ILO IS ON VERGE OF ADOPTING MAJOR CONVENTIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WORKERS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND POTENTIAL CUT OFF OF US FUNDS ENDANGERS WHOLE PROCESS. AFL-CIO'S ATTITUDE THUS A SEVERE SETBACK TO GRADUAL MOVEMENT TOWARD INCREASED CONTACTS BETWEEN WEST EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN TRADE UNION CENTERS.

2. IN DECLINING MEANY'S INVITAION FINNS STILL LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH AFL-CIO AT LATER DATE. THEY WOULD PREFER IT TO TAKE PLACE IN NORDIC CONTEXT AND THIS WAS AGREED AT RECENT NORDIC TRADE UNION COUNCIL MEETING IN STAVANGER. ANY MEETING WITH AFL-CIO SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED, HOWEVER, WITH AN AGENDA AGREED IN ADVANCE. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION CHAIRMAN HEINZ VETTER, WHO VISITED FINLAND SEPTEMBER 9-12 AS LEADER OF WEST GERMAN DGB DELEGATION ALSO ENDORSED THIS APPROACH IN HIS CONVERATIONS WITH FINNS.

3.SAK ALSO TOLD LABATT THAT ITALIANS (PARTICULARLY FORMER ICFTU CHAIRMAN STORTI) WERE "FURIOUS" THEY DID NOT RECEIVE INVITATION FROM MEANY TO PROPOSED OCTOBER MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, INVITATIONS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN02064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750325-0450
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750936/aaaabfsx.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 169526
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFL-CIO INVITATIONS TO EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS
TAGS: ELAB, FI, US, XZ, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006